

SCIENCE

And Technology Program



Theme Area: Environmental Resources

Program Area: Fisheries Applications

Project No.: ER00.05

Project Title: Bull Trout Habitat Research

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Abstract: A research investigation will be conducted to evaluate bull trout habitat in Reclamation reservoirs along the upper Yakima River. Bull trout vary in abundance in several Reclamation reservoirs and were listed nation wide as endangered. Data need to be collected so that Reclamation and fisheries managers have information on effects of operations, habitat preferences, and food habits. This is base line data with current limited data on bull trout within Reclamations (or any) reservoirs. This data collection and analysis within this research program will have bureau-wide use in that most regions have bull trout in one or more of the watersheds used for irrigation or hydropower. Initial data collection will involve the Central Washington University data base and field collections of fish abundance data from Rimrock Reservoir, Washington, using non-netting techniques such as hydroacoustics. Partners include Washington State Department of Fisheries, who can provide in kind services, and Central Washington University, who can provide boat and shop time.